Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report
1984-85

Saskatchewan
Agriculture

Eightieth Annual
Report for the twelve
months ended March
31, 1985

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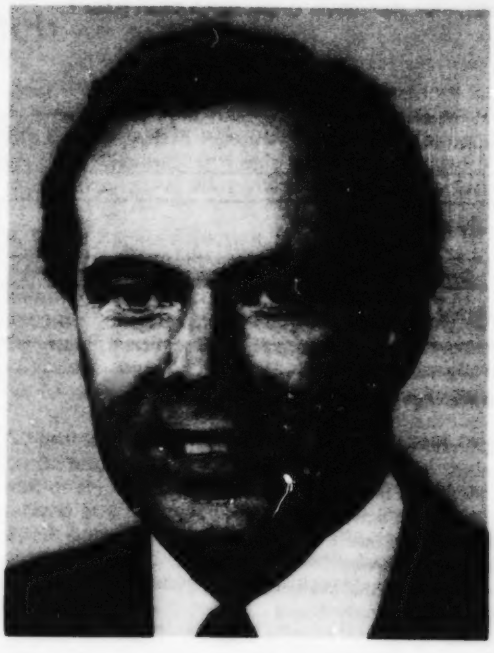
Letters of Transmittal

Department of Agriculture



To His Honour,
The Honourable Frederick W. Johnson,
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of
Saskatchewan

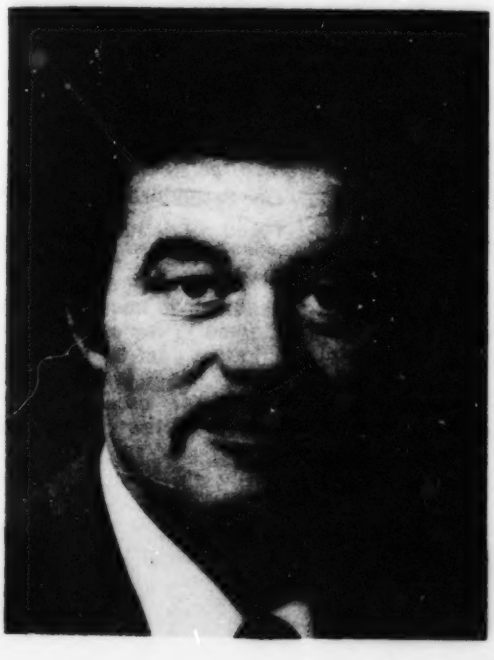
Sir:

I have the honour to submit the annual report of Saskatchewan Agriculture for the twelve months ending March 31, 1985.

Respectfully submitted,

Honourable Grant Devine, Premier
Minister of Agriculture

Report of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture



Honourable Grant Devine, Premier
Minister of Agriculture

Sir:

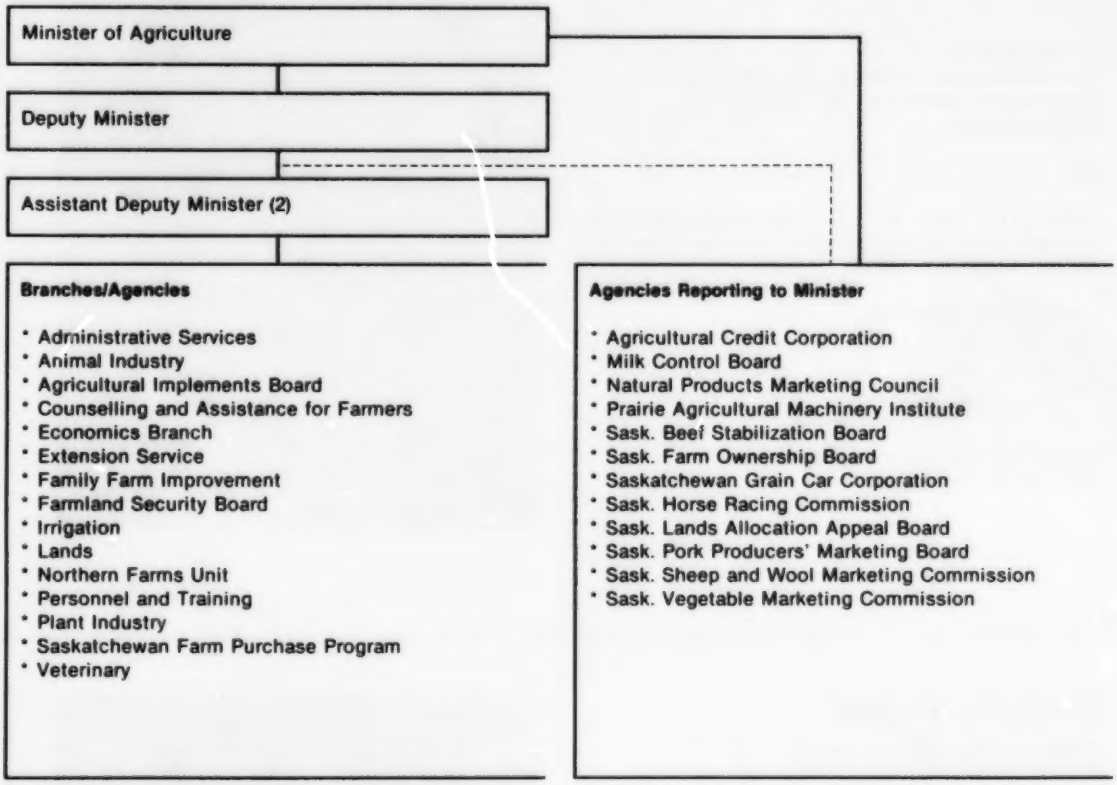
I wish to present to you the annual report of Saskatchewan Agriculture for the twelve months ending March 31, 1985.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Drew,
Deputy Minister

Organization Chart (1984-85)

Saskatchewan Agriculture Organization Chart (1984-85)


Minister of Agriculture
Deputy Minister
Assistant Deputy Minister (2)
Branches/Agencies
* Administrative Services
* Animal Industry
* Agricultural Implements Board
* Counselling and Assistance for Farmers
* Economics Branch
* Extension Service
* Family Farm Improvement
* Farmland Security Board
* Irrigation
* Lands
* Northern Farms Unit
* Personnel and Training
* Plant Industry
* Saskatchewan Farm Purchase Program
* Veterinary
Agencies Reporting to Minister
* Agricultural Credit Corporation
* Milk Control Board
* Natural Products Marketing Council
* Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute
* Sask. Beef Stabilization Board
* Sask. Farm Ownership Board
* Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation
* Sask. Horse Racing Commission
* Sask. Lands Allocation Appeal Board
* Sask. Pork Producers' Marketing Board
* Sask. Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission
* Sask. Vegetable Marketing Commission

Line Responsibility

Functional Relationship

Administrative Services Branch

Administrative Services provides department support services in budgeting, accounting, space and accommodation, equipment and supplies, mail services, vehicle management, computer management, legislation and administrative analysis.

I. Financial Services Section

Services were provided for the preparation and maintenance of payment vouchers, revenue receipts, and the reporting and forecasting of department revenues and expenditures. Approximately 30,000 expenditure vouchers and 15,000 local purchase orders were processed during the year. Co-ordination and documentation of financial data for the department year-end statements and maintenance of budget and expenditure control systems were also major requirements.

The managerial responsibilities of the agricultural supplies revolving fund were maintained in the financial services section during the 1984-85 fiscal year. Responsibility for the conservation and development revolving fund, northern farms unit was added on July 1, 1984.

The expenditure payment and reporting system prepared vouchers and provided program managers with information on branch expenditures. Administrative assistance, including accounting duties and record maintenance, was provided for the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund, Horned Cattle Trust Fund and the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Act Trust Fund. Administrative assistance was also provided to the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation.

Co-ordination of the development and approval of financial systems for new programs and policies such as the Counselling and Assistance for Farmers Program, the northern farms unit financial systems, and the surface lease compensation policy were undertaken. The section informed and advised program managers about directives, new procedures and policies that were issued by other government departments and agencies with regard to government accounting practices.

Liaison was maintained with the internal audit division of the comptroller's office to ensure that financial procedural requirements were met.

Cost-sharing program claims were prepared for the Agricultural Employment Agreement. Claims under the Special ARDA Agreement were also monitored and co-ordinated with respect to cost-sharing provisions, along with other smaller agreements.

II. Office Services Section

Services were provided for co-ordination and allocation of department space and accommodation. The Department of Supply of Services provided the department with new space in Wakaw and Rosetown. New space was planned for Nipawin, Lloydminister and Fort Qu'Appelle.

Co-ordination was provided for department budget preparation and acquisition of equipment, stationery and office supplies. The internal mail pickup and delivery to all branches in the Walter Scott Building was continued. The section also co-ordinated the department's central vehicle agency fleet and photocopying equipment.

The section was actively involved in the co-ordination of space, furniture and installation of the Saskatchewan Agriculture information delivery system equipment.

The section continued to maintain the computerized inventory system which replaced the manual recording of the department fixed asset transactions.

Staff worked closely with the financial management system project staff and Treasury Board Division staff in Saskatchewan Finance to co-ordinate the department budget preparation and review process using the new automated budget preparation system.

III. Systems Services Section

The department continued to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery through the use of computer based technology. Systems services section co-ordinated the design, development and/or operation of 47 computer-based systems within the department. The co-ordination involved administering the

rationalization and acquisition of systems resources such as analyst services and computer related equipment and services.

The data entry unit provided keying services for 29 computer systems involving more than 100 subsystems. Remote job entry services which involves the transmission and receiving of processed records were provided for 21 systems.

Several major system initiatives were undertaken including:

i) the completion of a systems proposal for a Crown land management system and the recruitment of a project management consultant.
ii) the phased expansion of the department's office automation system known as the Saskatchewan Agriculture Information delivery system (SAIDS).
iii) strengthening operational relationships with SaskComp in terms of introducing new security and billing procedures.
iv) submission of proposals for the human resources component of the Federal-Provincial Economic and Regional Development Agreement (ERDA).

1. Crown Land Management System

The conceptual design of a Crown land management system was initiated and completed. The proposed solution called for the development of an on-line mainframe system to streamline the management of crown land administered by the Lands Branch.

Due to the magnitude of the project, management consultants were commissioned to provide project management and quality assurance to the systems development.

2. Saskatchewan Agriculture Information Delivery System (SAIDS)

The systems services section assumed overall responsibility for the development and operation of the SAIDS in the areas of rationalization, project management, hardware and software management, networking, security, training and hot-line support, quality assurance, physical and functional expansion and maintenance.

1984-85 witnessed several major events in the development cycle of the SAIDS including:

- Equipment installed during the first implementation phase was returned due to failure of compliance with the contracted system specifications.
- The replacement system encompassed the second implementation phase resulting in equipment installations in Economics, Statistics, Communications, Family Farm Improvement, Veterinary Services, Plant Industry, Administration and Lands Branchs.
- The system was extended to include the Minister's and Deputy Minister's Offices.
- Rationalization studies were completed to extend the system to regional and district field offices, Human Resources Branch, Animal Industry Branch, Farm Ownership Board, Farm Purchase Program and Agricultural Credit Corporation. Special rationalization studies were conducted to expand the economics component of the system system and to introduce portable microcomputers at the field level in order to service new program requirements. All proposals received financial approval for implementation.
- The establishment of a SAIDS system administrator to co-ordinate operational support for systems users.
- The formation of user committees and groups which function as quality circle teams to facilitate system management and operations.

3. SaskComp

SaskComp introduced a service contract covering the provision of computer services to the department. The systems services section assumed responsibility for administering this contract including the authorization of all departmental security controls on SaskComp facilities.

The section also took advantage of a new billing procedure offered by SaskComp which reduced operational costs and administration requirements.

4. Economic and Regional Development Agreement (ERDA)

The systems services section submitted proposals for the human resources component of this five year federal/provincial agreement which focuses on knowledge transfer opportunities to enable agriculture producers to improve their management methods.

The systems services section was instrumental in formulating a department systems strategy proposal to provide the framework within which to develop computer-based systems.

IV. Grant Administration Section

Administrative services managed grant programs included in the assistance to general agricultural interests allocation for the department.

1. Grants of $1,765 were provided to the agricultural societies association and the horticultural societies association to assist in their operating costs.

The grant program for exhibition associations and agricultural and horticultural societies provided for reimbursement of up to 50 per cent of the operating costs incurred by these organizations to a maximum of $5,000 for Class C fairs, $10,000 for Class B fairs and $1,000 for horticultural societies. Grants paid in 1984-85 totaled $348,464 compared to $346,821 in 1983-84.

Close liaison was maintained with the Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, with respect to the processing of grant payments and the evaluation of the policies. The director of Administrative Services Branch represented the department on the Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies Association Board of Directors.

2. The Saskatchewan Horse Racing Commission was provided with a $1,760,000 grant to cover their administration costs and to provide all horse race meet sponsors with pari-mutual tax rebates.

V. Northern Farms Unit

Under the northern farms program, Saskatchewan Agriculture operated four farms in Northern Saskatchewan. They are Central and Silver Lake Farms in the Green Lake area and the Ile a la Crosse and Cumberland House Farms. The farms are operated through the conservation and development revolving fund utilizing a program manager, assistant manager and one accounting staff in Regina head office with each farm having an on-farm manager. Responsibility for the management of the farms was transferred from the former Conservation and Development Branch to the current management structure on July 1, 1984.

The farms operate a total of 20,000 acres of cultivation, perennial forage and native razing. All production of the farms is utilized in the livestock operations. In 1984-85 the farms wintered a breeding herd totalling 2,250 cows. Central Farm also operates a 120 sow farrow to finish hog operation. Peak seasonal on farm employment totalled 36 employees.

Agricultural Implements Board

"The Agricultural Implements Board works to improve the availability of repair parts and service for agricultural implements."

During the year 133 distributors (representing 214 manufacturers) were registered in Saskatchewan. Inspections of 53 distributors' facilities and 547 dealers' facilities were completed. There were 794 licenced dealers at year end. Fifty-eight new dealers were licenced and 44 licences terminated during the year.

A total of 175 complaints regarding agricultural implements were received from farmers, dealers and distributors. As well, 572 information calls were handled by the office staff.

The board continued to survey the major parts depots in Saskatchewan and as in previous years the depots continued to fill parts orders at a fill rate in excess of 90 per cent. Problems with transportation, customs and parts vendors outside the province were usually responsible when parts delays occurred.

Five applications for compensation were handled by the board and five awards were made for a total of $10,132.53.

Agricultural Societies

"Agricultural Societies enhance rural community life through sponsorship of annual exhibitions, rodeos, farmers' markets and other traditional activities."

There are 74 agricultural societies and exhibition associations in Saskatchewan. The number of communities showing an interest in the formation of an agricultural society continues to increase. One new society was formed in Kipling in the 1984-85 fiscal year. Indications are that requests for the formation of new societies are coming from the younger generations of farmers and businessmen.

The department continued to provide operating grants based on the cost of managing a society for a year. The maximum grant for a regional (Class B) exhibition association or society was $10,000 and a community (Class C) association or society was $5,000.

I. Activities

Summer or fall fairs continued to be the most popular activities sponsored by societies. Other sponsored events included field days, short courses and lectures, beef and swine shows and sales, horse shows and exhibitor schools.

Societies continued to support the 4-H program in a variety of ways, such as awarding scholarships, sponsoring regional livestock shows and sales, providing facilities for shows and other social activities, providing prize money for classes at summer fairs and offering adult leadership.

II. Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies Association

The association is a voluntary organization of individual agricultural societies that help member societies to improve their programs. One day regional meetings organized by the association were held at Yorkton, Outlook, Broadview, Redvers, Swift Current, North Battleford and Melfort. These meetings provided society members with an opportunity to get together to exchange ideas and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. The regional meetings also helped to maintain a strong bond between the local agricultural societies and the provincial association.

The 75th annual meeting was held in January during Farm and Home Week at the University of Saskatchewan. 170 delegates from 42 societies were in attendance.

Animal Industry Branch

"The Animal Industry Branch encourages the development of an efficient livestock industry though its production programs and regulatory services."

Extension, consultant and supervisory services are provided by branch specialists, livestock technicians and livestock inspectors for the benefit of farmers and the livestock industry. Liaison is maintained with research personnel in industry, universities, Agriculture Canada and livestock organizations.

I. Extension and Production Services Section

1. Beef Cattle Unit

The beef cattle unit continued to promote use of production records as the basis for informed herd management decisions. Activities included the "Beef Cattle Management" newsletter which was mailed out to 20,000 cattle producers five times during the year. Also, speakers were provided for beef production workshops throughout the province. The annual Beef Seminar "What's In Stock For You?" attracted more than 250 producers and industry people.

Genetic improvement through selection based on performance is a major thrust of the Beef Unit. The Federal-Provincial R.O.P. program updates continue to make it attractive to beef producers. Forty-seven new herds went on the program in 84-85. The concept of performance is rapidly being accepted by Saskatchewan cattlemen, seedstock and commercial alike. Three bull test stations performance tested 675 bulls, 308 of which sold in two sales averaging $1,900., the highest price ever for yearling bulls in Saskatchewan. Approximately 70 per cent of these bulls went to commercial ranchers.

The beef unit was also involved in Agriculture Canada's five-year review of beef cattle research and represented Saskatchewan at the National Advisory Board for Beef Cattle Improvement annual meeting.

2. Dairy Herd Analysis Service

There were 62 herds on the supervised and 243 herds on the owner-sampler options of the Dairy Herd Analysis Service (DHAS) program in 1984-85. The DHAS program, in addition to providing production records, provided optional management data on reproduction, somatic cell counts, nutrition and other herd management criteria. More than 3,600 farm calls were made during the year to service the DHAS program and provide dairy production extension to milk recorded herds.

3. Livestock Pest Control Unit

In 1984, this unit's program included biting and nuisance fly control, warble control, predator (coyote) control and problem vertebrate control.

In its role as coordinator of black fly control, the unit directed a program that included: weekly monitoring and periodic treatment of black fly larvae in north and south and main branches of the Saskatchewan river; a related research project and a field trial that attempted to evaluate the capability of insecticide ear tags for protecting beef cattle against black flies.

Through its annual spring survey, the unit monitored warble infestations which, in both auction market cattle and carcasses remained at less than one per cent.

As coordinator of coyote control, the unit provided consultation to sheep producers on coyote control through the use of: guard dogs, den hunts, carrion removal, aversive conditioning and predator-resistant electric fencing. In association with the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources, the unit coordinated the allocation of "ten-eighty" (a toxicant) baits to producers.

This unit responded to hundreds of requests for information and advice concerning the biology and control of problem vertebrates such as mice, rats, skunks, bats, snakes, sparrows, pigeons and magpies.

4. Nutrition and Sheep Unit

More than 6,000 samples were submitted to the Feed Testing Laboratory. New equipment bought during the last three years enabled staff at the laboratory to reduce the time required for responding to clients. Most of the rations recommendations were made by the laboratory nutritionists.

Three short courses in dairy and beef nutrition were offered to producers in conjunction with courses on artificial insemination.

The unit completed five "Sheep Topics" and several "Latest in Research" publications. Saskatchewan Sheep Manual was completed during the year. These and other publications on sheep production were supplied to new and prospective producers, schools and 4-H clubs.

Forty-three sheep producers with 51 flocks were enrolled in R.O.P. programs. These flocks were made up of 1,275 ewes with 2,162 lambs born in 1984. One hundred and seven farm calls were made during the year. At the R.O.P. Ram Test Station 59 purebred rams from 20 producers were tested.

The R.O.P. program is being used for selection of breeding stock by producers, and also establishes contact between staff of the department that lead to provision of information about feeding, housing, disease prevention and other aspects of management. This program has shown a 2.3 per cent yearly increase in the total lamb produced per ewe since 1978. This is due both to increased number of lambs weaned per ewe and the average size of lamb at 100 days of age.

Time was also spent on review of programs and planning.

5. Swine Unit

The swine unit provided specialist production and extension service to pork producers and the pork industry. This was accomplished by making farm visits to investigate and diagnosis production problems. Telephone consultations were made, production records analyzed, feeding programs prepared, and education programs implemented to meet specific needs.

A survey of on-farm swine feeds was conducted on approximately 50 farms. The results indicated 25 to 38 per cent of sow rations were below NRC requirements, and 17 to 32 per cent of grower rations were below. As well, water quality appeared as a problem on five of the 50 farms.

Numerous extension and information transfer programs were held. These include the annual Saskatchewan Swine Symposium, Swine Design Trade Show, and a swine artificial insemination course. The distribution of research reports and extension material from the Prairie Swine Centre was co-ordinated.

The record of performance and swine ultrasonics program tested 8,733 pigs in 1984-85. This was up slightly from other years. As well, the technicians used ultrasonic equipment to measure beef bulls, and they collected slaughter samples from swine herds to provide a health monitoring service.

The swine unit has positions on the Board of Directors and Management Committee of the Prairie Swine Centre, University of Saskatchewan. As well, representation and liaison is provided with many groups and committees including Saskatchewan Pork Producers Marketing Board, Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Animal Production, Animal Health Data Laboratory, Swine Improvement Services Co-operative, and Saskatchewan Swine Breeders' Association.

6. The Dairy Extension Unit

As part of a reorganization of the Animal Industry Branch, a dairy extension unit was established with a staff of three regional dairy specialists transferred from the dairy quality unit, and a dairy extension program manager, transferred from the Veterinary Services Branch. The objective of this unit is to emphasize the importance of nutrition, mastitis control, housing and equipment, milking equipment and milking technique as well as the identification of milk quality problems and their cause.

The dairy extension unit is the primary contact for the province's 780 dairy producers and subsequently responds to their inquiries and problems. The dairy extension personnel also monitor the monthly producer quality reports and provide assistance and guidance in identifying and correcting the problems.

7. Livestock Reproduction Unit (LRU)

The LRU emphasized demonstration and trial activities of a long term nature to acquire reliable results. As well, the LRU initiated projects and strategies to effectively measure impact of reproductive technology in the livestock industry. Ongoing projects are:

- Sheep Breeding Control (Melfort and North Battleford);
- Beef Breeding Control and Reproductive Analysis (Prostaglandin and Synchromate B) at Creelman, Frontier, Swift Current, Shaunavon and Yorkton;
- Ultrasound for Pregnancy Testing in Cattle (Strasbourg).

New initiatives include a micro-assisted reproductive analysis/performance program in the southwest, and an electronic heat detection trial using ovascan on dairy cattle. Results of ongoing and completed projects will appear periodically in branch newsletters.

New initiatives include a micro-assisted reproductive analysis/performance program in the southwest, and an electronic heat detection trial using ovascan on dairy cattle. Results of ongoing and completed projects will appear periodically in branch newsletters.

Seventy-two cattle producers graduated from four artificial insemination courses (five day courses) held in Yorkton, Swift Current, Saskatoon and Regina this past winter. The two-day Swine A.I. course held in Saskatoon was successful.

The number of licensed A.I. technicians is 115, down 15 from the 130 in 1983. The LRU only licensed those persons actually reporting services in 1984 therefore many licenses lapsed. Reported services of 16,104 remained relatively constant, although the number is historically low due to the influx of herd-owner inseminators over the last six years.

II. Operations and Regulatory Services Section

1. Dairy Regulatory Unit

The new dairy regulatory unit administers and is responsible for the enforcement of four sets of regulations under the Animal Products Act. These regulations govern production, hauling (measurement and sampling), milk-fat testing; and establish minimum grade, composition and quality standards for raw milk and cream as well as manufactured dairy and imitation products. Nine hundred and ninety one licenses were issued during the year. The unit is responsible for determining the quality of milk purchased and preparing 24 milk-fat and settlement reports from which dairy producers payments and milk processor charges are calculated by the province's milk marketing board. The unit receives monthly reports from manufacturing plants on their production and calculates this province's manufactured dairy product statistics for Canada.

2. Provincial Dairy Laboratory

During the year, approximately 750,000 tests were performed on 272,000 samples received by the Provincial Dairy Laboratory. The lab used the results of testing 28,000 standard or reference samples to insure the accuracy of the following tests.

The results of 50,250 tests on 16,500 samples were used by the Dairy regulatory and extension units of Livestock Branch to insure the quality of raw milk. Approximately 46,000 samples were analyzed for milk fat content.

For dairy herd analysis and Agriculture Canada's record of performance program 181,527 individual cow milk samples were analyzed for fat, protein and somatic cells.

An additional 2,000 quality and composition tests on dairy products and research samples were provided to the dairy industry.

3. Livestock Inspection and Data Processing Unit

This unit provides brand inspection service and documentation of livestock movement. During 1984 almost 1.2 million animals were inspected and recorded. This is up slightly from 1983. In 1984 approximately 1,000 computer searches were conducted in an effort to aid owners, brand inspectors and R.C.M.P. in finding missing animals.

The total number of brands registered under the Animal Identification Act of December 31, 1984 was 27,729. In 1984, 414 new brands were issued and 93 were transferred. Of the 5,940 brands that expired 4,449 were renewed.

The number of livestock dealers licensed by the branch was 206.

Counselling and Assistance for Farmers Program

"The counselling and assistance for farmers program provides operating loan guarantees to eligible farmers who have been declined operating loans from their primary lending institutions."

In 1984-85, 530 farmers applied under the program and received counselling by farmer panels who have proven production and financial management abilities. The counselling consisted of suggesting farm operating changes which would enhance the viability of a farm. For those operations which have the potential of being viable, the panels recommended that operating loan guarantees be offered.

In 1984-85, lenders accepted 108 operating loan guarantees, totalling $9,043,500. The average guarantee was $83,362.

Economics Branch

"The Economics Branch aims to improve the economic environment facing Saskatchewan farmers and to assist them in making effective decisions within that environment."

The branch works with producer groups, marketing agencies, department branches and agencies and other government departments in initiating, developing, implementing and evaluating activities and programs in the areas of marketing, land use, production economics and farm business management to assist the agricultural industry to achieve its earning potential. Improving the competitive position of Saskatchewan agriculture products in national and international markets is of parallel importance.

I. Research Section

The research section provided economic research, program development, and program administration services. The section also provided support staff for program review and special projects.

The section was responsible for the administration of several ongoing programs. Staff was provided to the Natural Products Marketing Council which is the supervisory body for marketing boards and commissions established under The Natural Products Marketing Act. Support staff was provided to the Saskatchewan Agricultural Research Board which is responsible for administration of the Saskatchewan Agriculture Research Fund for projects relating to crops, soils, livestock, and socio-economics. Staff participated in the Saskatchewan Agricultural Services Co-ordinating Committee. This Committee co-ordinates agricultural research and extension efforts by federal and provincial governments, universities, agribusiness and farmers.

The research section provided a representative to the Environment Assessment Review Panel in the Department of Environment to ensure that the impacts of major economic development projects on agriculture are considered in reviewing development projects.

The Feeder Association Loan Guarantee Program which provides Government guaranteed loans to feeder associations is administered by the section. Staff also administered the North East Flood Compensation Program which was implemented in response to successive years of spring flooding in northeastern Saskatchewan.

In terms of program development and review, the research section provided support staff for the development of The Farm Land Security Act. This act restricts foreclosure actions against farmland. The section was involved in setting up the Farm Land Security Board established by the act. The research section also participated in a budget review process as part of the preparation of the department's 1985-86 budget.

II. Statistics Section

The statistics section collects, analyzes, interprets and disseminates agricultural statistics.

The statistics section handles several hundred enquiries each year, on legal, social, economic and production subjects.

Agriculture Division of Statistics Canada and Saskatchewan Agriculture have a long-standing working relationship. Statistics Canada conducts more than 100 agricultural surveys in Saskatchewan each year including surveys of producer seeding intentions, seeding progress, crop production and yield estimates of principal grains, livestock inventories, farm commodity prices, expenditures and capital value. The statistics section assists with these surveys.

The statistics section has identified areas where statistical information is not readily available and has compiled required publications. Market information on farm commodities is published each week. The Cattle Marketing Report which tracks movement and marketing of cattle, is sent out monthly and annually to more that 400 cattle producers and organizations.

The statistics section continued the regular crop reporting service providing current information of Saskatchewan crop conditions for producers, agribusiness, foreign government agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Agriculture staff. Saskatchewan farmers and agricultural representatives were surveyed weekly from April through the end of harvest.

The specialty crop information program includes a Specialty Crop Intentions Survey in March and a Specialty Crop Report, detailing area and production in November.

The statistics section prepares a one-page statistical fact sheet intended to help individuals and organizations to keep abreast of major survey results. The Section also prepares a comprehensive statistical handbook intended for current and historical agricultural data requests.

The statistics section also administers the Saskatchewan Feed Grain and Forage Listing Service. The Listing Service provides a means for sellers to publicize the feed grain and forage available for sale and for buyers to find out where feed supplies are available.

III. Market Analysis Section

The market analysis section provides on-going analysis of market performance and market trends, both short-term and long-term.

Staff provide support for the economic analysis of marketing related problems in agriculture, and provide expertise in the analysis of current market trends and long-term potential for crops and livestock.

The unit also assists in the development and administration of stabilization for producers to assure adequate returns through three major stabilization programs operated by the department: Saskatchewan Hog Assured Returns Program (S.H.A.R.P), the Cow Calf to Finish Market Insurance Plan and the Feeder Finish Market Insurance Plan.

S.H.A.R.P has been operating since 1976 and provides support to 1,792 producers, producing 77 percent of market hogs in Saskatchewan.

The Cow Calf to Finish Market Insurance Plan started operation on January 1, 1983. Nearly 3,000 production units are enrolled in this plan. The Feeder Finish Market Insurance Plan started operation January I, 1983. However, coverage was backdated to October 4, 1982. Nine hundred fifty-two production units are enrolled in this plan.

The two beef plans cover approximately 60 per cent of slaughter steer and heifer marketings in the province.

IV. Farm Management Section

The primary role of the farm management section is to develop, organize and provide farm management information and advice to farmers, extension staff, course instructors and other farm advisors.

This section is responsible for advising policy makers on matters pertaining to economics and farm management and for providing economic analysis in the areas alternative production techniques. The following bulletins were revised during 1984-85:

- Income Tax for Farmers
- Estate Planning
- Farm Business Arrangements
- Income Tax Management
- Insurance Management
- Law for Saskatchewan Farm Families
- Savings and Investments
- Sources of Farm Credit
- Farm Credit Management
- Farm Machinery Custom and Rental Rates

During 1984-85, the farm business analysis program was continued to serve as a business analysis service to farmers and to provide average cost of production information. The Farm Business Management Calendar was updated. Several materials were updated in the Saskatchewan Farm Business Management Data Manual, including Grain Drying Costs, Forage, Harvesting and Hauling Comparisons, Poultry Production Costs, Bee Production Costs, Sheep Production Costs and various other production economics related materials.

Managing Farm Technology, a seminar sponsored by Saskatchewan Agriculture and organized by the farm business management section, was operated in 1984-85.

Staff members analyzed several policy and program issues during the year. Areas studied:
- Fluid milk pricing
- Provided information on income tax changes as they related to the formation of policy by the Government of Saskatchewan.

During the year 1984-85 the section developed a financial management home study course which had an enrollment of over 1,400 farmers. The course consisted of eight lessons of material dealing specifically with financial management. The staff also participated in several meetings with participants to further strengthen their financial management skills.

Staff provided support to the Livestock Investment Tax Credit Program. Complete administrative system was developed and implemented as well as informational meetings and inquiry support.

Staff provided support to the development of the Counselling and Assistance for Farmers Program. Staff were involved in designing reviewing and analysing procedures for applicants to the Counselling and Assistance for Farmers Program.

Farm business management staff provided a number of training workshops during the year including farm incorporation, farm operating arrangements, economics of alternative forage handling systems and participated in meetings with regional specialists on the development of information on tax management.

V. The Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission

The Economics Branch continued to provide financial support to the Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission, during 1984-85, in the way of an administration grant. Personnel continued to work with the commissions on potential marketing alternatives for the improvement of the industry. Further information is contained in the latest annual report of the commissions.

VI. Saskatchewan Matching Grants-in-Aid Program

The branch assumed responsibility for the Saskatchewan Matching Grants-in-Aid Program in 1983-84. The program, which is administered through the Saskatchewan Council for International Co-operation (SCIC), provides matching grant assistance for development projects in developing countries around the world. The 1984-85 budget was $900,000. Further information is contained in the latest annual report of the SCIC.

Extension Service Branch

"The Extension Service objective is to provide an information and development service to farmers to enable them to take advantage of their opportunities."

Each of the six extension regions develops its own programs based on local needs. Extension field staff consists of three regional co-ordinators, 45 agricultural representatives and 19 specialists in farm management, communications, livestock, soils and crops.

The branch works with other public and private agencies to deliver extension programs. These agencies include the Extension and Community Relations Division, University of Saskatchewan; community colleges; Wascana Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences; Employment and Immigration Canada; Agriculture Canada; Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Department of Regional Industrial Expansion; and agribusiness.

I. Program Development

Extension staff members rely on agricultural committees, district boards, regional councils and local organizations concerned with agriculture for assistance in program planning, disseminating information, publicizing department programs, evaluating and gathering reaction to various programs, policies and concerns.

II. Extension Activities

The FarmLab Demonstration Policy provides financial assistance to farmers to establish projects on their farms to demonstrate proven innovative practices in crop and livestock production. Financial assistance is provided for project costs which are above the farmer's normal operating costs.

Under FarmLab, staff developed projects to demonstrate innovative crop and livestock production practices. FarmLab projects included salinity control, intensive cropping systems, fertilizer response and placement, winter annual weed control, special crops and alternative summerfallow systems, micro-nutrient deficiencies, early weaning of calves, growth implants and fly control.

The 1984 cropping season was marred in northern Saskatchewan by the wheat midge and flood damage. In the south drought conditions prevailed resulting in assistance programs being developed for drought damage and transporting livestock to distant pastures.

Wind erosion in recent years has raised interest in an alternative to the conventional two and three year summerfallow-crop rotation practices. Staff encourage alternative summerfallow methods, extended rotations and soil conservation.

Grasshopper infestations caused problems in some areas again and were forecast to be severe in 1985. The Bright Sands and Fairlight Forage projects had a successful year demonstrating forage species, fertility and management practices for forage crops. A report was prepared about the forage crops management project.

There was continued interest in the feeding and finishing aspects of beef production. Producers required information about custom feedlots, keeping calves longer and handling cattle efficiently through improved facilities and management practices. Other topics promoted were disease control, livestock nutrition, growth implants and straw ammoniation.

As the complexity of managing the farm business increases, it is necessary for farmers to have up-to-date information. During the year there were more requests for information about tax management and financial and estate planning. There was also continued interest in cost of production information, indicating a concern for escalating input costs.

Agricultural representatives also worked closely with rural municipalities in planning and delivering jointly sponsored agricultural programs. These were delivered through district boards, municipal councils or ad hoc appointees of the council.

Staff continued to provide information to farmers through newspaper articles, periodic newletters and regular radio and television spots and programs. The communications program provided farmers with current information quickly, and information about department programs and policies. Individual farmer inquiries increased again in all regions, as did the number of meetings and short courses. Average attendance at group events also increased. The number of FarmLab tours also increased as the program continued to mature and become better known.

Extension activities were steady in the soils and crops areas such as salinity, extended crop rotation, alternative crops and weed control. Interest in winter wheat production was high with a sharp increase in seeded acreage. Interest continued in beef and hogs, grain handling, storage and drying and forage handling systems.

III. Extension Policies and Programs

FarmLab program activity continued at a high level during the fiscal year; 289 locally initiated demonstrations were established and payments of $125,448.54 were made to co-operating farmers.

Forty-three district boards received grants totalling $335,154.98 to cover two-thirds of the cost of employing fieldworkers to conduct a variety of pest control projects. Four Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program districts received a total of $4,574.77. The Rat Control Program received excellent co-operation.

Grants to 4-H, totalling $335,300 were paid as follows:

- Saskatchewan 4-H Council for provincial program administration	$186,460
- grants to regional councils	$134,610
- 4-H council expenses	$6,300
- 4-H club grants	$7,930

Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program

The Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program (S.I.A.P.) continued to operate under an agreement between the province and the Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program Incorporated. Major emphasis is placed on developing viable farms on Saskatchewan reserves.

The Saskatchewan Agriculture-S.I.A.P. agreement provides for agricultural representatives and extension specialists to work with Indian farmers and band councils to achieve the goals of the program. Agricultural representatives work with district boards which have representation from all reserves. The district agricultural representatives supervise and train staff employed by S.I.A.P. including Indian assistant agricultural representatives; horticulturists, home economists, financial advisors, on-site advisors and summer students.

Northern Agriculture Unit

The Northern Agriculture Unit continued its activities in wild rice production and the Small Scale Food Program.

The Wild Rice Specialist conducted research into rice production and assisted new growers to develop their operations. A FarmLab demonstration project was conducted on the Mercer River to study the effect of thinning plant stands on future year production. The Small Scale Food Program employed three Agrologists to assist northern residents in establishing community gardens and small livestock operations. Interest in the program expanded considerably with seven new communities participating this year. The horticultural research plot at Potato Lake was expanded, with fruit and vegetables being planted to determine suitable varieties for the north. The horticulture research is a major support component for the Small Scale Food Program.

IV. Communications Unit

In April 1984, as part of a departmental reorganization, communications joined the Extension Services Branch. The unit absorbed several responsibilities previously handled by the public information section of Statistics and Public Information Branch. Following the transfer to Extension Services the unit was reorganized consisted of three subunits namely print, electronic and library services.

In 1984-85, the communications unit provided support to the Extension Service Branch, other branches of the department and related agencies and organizations. The purpose of the unit was to encourage the smooth and efficient movement of relevant information from the department and agricultural research sector to the farm audience in a manner that would encourage adoption of improved agricultural methods and better utilzation of department programs and services.

1. Electronic Communications Services

Staff of the electronic communications subunit provided advice to department staff on the design of slide sets, motion visuals and audio tapes and assisted staff locate and borrow or buy prepared audio visual material. Staff also supervised the preparation of two films, "The Grasshopper Problem" and "The Wheat Midge Problem". The audio visual technician prepared overhead transparencies and duplicated slides for staff to use in presentations to clients. The electronic communications subunit operated the audio visual equipment depot and continued to maintain and improve the department's photographics collection of slides and prints.

2. Print Communications Services

In 1984-85 activity in the print subunit focussed on introducing systems to improve efficiency in the production of print materials. Systems introduced included centralizing preparation of requisitions, storage of artwork and assignment of numerical codes for retrieval purposes. As well, staff provided more help in monitoring the printing of publications in order to assure a quality printing job within established time limits.

Besides managing production of print materials this subunit was responsible for preparing and distributing the unit's newsletter, Extension Communications and the department's annual report, reviewing applications for the Century Family Farm award and arranging for presentations of these awards, preparing releases for the department's technical press and radio series, and helping publish the department's staff newsletter.

3. Library Services

Following the weeding, sorting and updating of the library's collection and introduction of a new classification system for documents in 1983-84, in 1984-85 staff were able to do a full inventory of the library's collection. Library staff continued to provide literature searches, to support staff research. They also continued to publish Information Notes, a listing of all new acquisitions.

4. Research, Planning and Special Projects

In 1984-85 the communications unit participated in a variety of activities aimed at improving efficiency within government and communication clients. Briefly these were:

a. Saskatchewan Agriculture Information Base - researching value of such a base in delivering information to staff and clients and formulating requirements of such a base in terms of the department's needs;

b. Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network (SCAN) - reviewing the position paper on this topic initiated by The Government of Saskatchewan, discussing its implications with others involved in agriculture, submitting responses on behalf of the unit and the department, and providing leadership to other groups making presentations;

c. Centralized distribution of audio-visual equipment and print materials - assessing the department's needs in these areas. This assessment concluded that the department would continue to maintain the audio-visual depot but would share the distribution of print materials with the Department of Supply and Services;

d. Base program review - the unit analysed its mission, objectives and resource requirements as part of the overall departmental review;

e. Library automation - the Library's operations were reviewed and recommendations were made.

f. Automation of regional offices - the unit provided advisory services to Extension Services in selecting computers, provided a supervisory role in the installation of computers in regional offices and provided a leadership role in organizing an advisory committee to study the effective use of computer technology in extension.

Family Farm Improvement Branch

"The Family Farm Improvement Branch (FFIB) provides extension services to rural Saskatchewan in farmstead planning, farm structures and systems, livestock pollution control and energy conservation."

The highlight of the year was the introduction of the Individual Irrigation Development Policy. The drought during the summer of 1984 created a substantially increased interest in irrigation and necessitated the implementation of two drought aid programs for livestock producers.

I. Agricultural Engineering Service

Agricultural engineering service provides resource specialist services to the department and other agencies in the area of farm building plans, farmstead planning, farmstead equipment, mechanization and heating systems, alternate energy source development, and energy conservation.

Staff participated in programs of several provincial and national organizations including the Canada Plan Service, the Canada Committee on Agricultural Engineering, the Expert Committee on Energy and the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Agricultural Engineering.

The branch carries out engineering related on-farm research and demonstration projects. During the year project activities included: development and testing of duct systems incorporating small fans for ventilation of small swine farrowing and nursery rooms; monitoring of fogging systems for dust control in turkey broiler buildings; measuring air flows in natural air grain drying systems; monitoring farm energy management systems; monitoring radiant heating with natural gas in poultry buildings; development of a microcomputer controlled ventilation system; control of iron bacteria in wells; and evaluation of iron removal filters in rural water applications.

Branch staff organized and supervised a seed drill survey of nearly 1000 farms throughout the province. Results were compiled and made available to the public.

II. Farm Home Consultant Program

Home design information is provided to farm families, rural house builders and other government agencies to ensure that the unique characteristics of a functional farm home are recognized.

Energy conserving features have been accepted as common practice. The greatest activity has been in the area of renovation and retrofitting existing homes. The principle of expandable house design has been publicized and received with considerable interest.

III. Rural Water and Sewage

Technical advice is provided on the installation and operation of automated farmstead water and sewage systems.

IV. (1) Drought Assistance Program for Movement of Cattle

This policy provided assistance for the movement of breeding cattle from stricken areas to available pastures. Assistance was provided for the movement of cattle where necessitated by drought, not for normal cattle movement.

A total of 396 applications were received; $277,861.37 was paid in assistance to move 44,302 cattle.

(2) Prairie Livestock Drought Assistance Program

The Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba Prairie Livestock Drought Assistance Agreement was signed on October 1, 1984, and provided for the payment of cash grants to livestock producers in designated drought areas to aid in overwintering their breeding herds.

Two hundred and nineteen rural municipalities were designated as drought areas and 15,600 applicants participated. The cost of the program totalled $28,700,000.

V. Individual Irrigation Development Policy

This policy promotes irrigation on Saskatchewan farms by providing financial assistance for on-farm development. Grants are available only for projects of five or more acres. For each acre of irrigation development meeting the criteria, grants will be paid; Year 1 - $60, Year 2 - $20, Year 3 - $20.

During 1984-85, grants of $409,140 were paid on 71 projects, irrigating 7,316.3 acres.

VI. The Pollution (By Livestock) Control Act

The branch administers 'The Pollution (By Livestock) Control Act, 1984'. Permits are issued for the construction of facilities for intensive livestock operations.

During 1984-85, 121 applications for permits were received, 59 permits were issued and 19 complaints were received and investigated. No Minister's Order's were issued.

VII. Livestock Pollution Abatement

Saskatchewan Agriculture shares in the costs of relocating livestock facilities to more desirable locations where they were built before The Pollution (By Livestock) Control Act came into effect in 1971, and where there are no other alternatives to pollution control. No operations were assisted during the past year.

VIII. Water Pollution Control for Livestock Operations in the Qu'Appelle Basin

Under the Canada-Saskatchewan Qu'Appelle Valley Subsidiary Agreement financial assistance is provided to farmers to construct control works or relocate livestock facilities which existed prior to 1971 and which are causing a pollution problem. About 1,000 livestock facilities identified in 1974-75 are under study.

During 1984-85 water pollution control works or relocations were completed on seven farms and grants totalling $30,851 were paid. Construction services were provided by The Saskatchewan Water Corporation and private contractors.

IX. MEXabition

The 20th annual MEXabition was managed by FFIB and held in Saskatoon in conjunction with the Saskatoon Fall Fair, and in Regina with Canadian Western Agribition. Attendance was estimated at 40,000 in Saskatoon and 150,000 in Regina. "Silicon Alley" promoted the use of computers in Agriculture. "MEXabition Theater" combined education with entertainment.

MEXabition continues to be an important extension tool for all branches of the department. New technology and programs are introduced with the co-operation of suppliers and agencies.

X. Extension

The branch provides one farmstead engineer and one farmstead development technician to work as part of the extension team in each of the six extension regions. Support is provided by headquarters specialist staff.

Most individual requests for information during 1984 involved hog facilities, natural air grain drying, livestock building ventilation, water treatment, farmstead planning, heating systems and manure handling.

One new bulletin and four new "handi-facts" were completed. Three publications and 15 handi-facts were revised and reprinted.

The branch is responsible for writing one regular newspaper column.

The branch also serves on committees for farm shows such as Swine Design, Western Canada Farm Progress Show, Western Canadian Crop Production Show and Ind-Ex.

Farm Ownership Board

The Farm Ownership Board is responsible for administering the provisions of The Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act.

The act allows purchases of agricultural land not exceeding 10 acres by non-resident individuals and by corporations not primarily involved in agricultural production.

In 1984-85, under the 10 acre provision, 54 individuals not resident in Saskatchewan purchased 153 acres. Sixty-one non-agricultural corporations purchased 244 acres.

Non-eligible individuals and corporations may apply to the board for exemption to acquire more than 10 acres.

In 1984-85, the board considered 167 applications received from non-resident individuals and 135 applications received from non-agricultural corporations, involving 168,009 acres.

In addition to the exemption requests received, the board investigated 798 non-resident and 523 corporate acquisitions. A majority of the interests acquired by the non-residents met the special exemption provision for relatives of farmers. A majority of the corporate acquisitions were by those primarily involved in agricultural production. A total of 277,815 acres of land was involved.

To ensure that the public continues to be aware of the provisions of the act, the board undertook a modest advertising and information campaign.

Farm Purchase Program

"The Farm Purchase Program helps owners of small and medium-sized farms, particularly young farmers, to buy land by providing money to help offset high interest costs and by ensuring stable interest rates for the first ten years of a farm land purchase. For the first five years of a loan, the Farm Purchase Program pays interest rebates equal to the difference between payments at available interest rates and payments at eight per cent. For the next five years, rebates equal the difference between payments at available interest rates and 12 per cent."

I. Program Delivery

The Farm Purchase Program Act received Royal Assent December 17, 1982. Until July 1, 1983 Farm Credit Corporation was the only lender approved to deliver the Program. After that date, the five major banks and credit unions were included as approved lenders. The program is administered by a staff of seven. Administration costs in 1984-85 amounted to $357,282.20.

II. Program Progress

In the December 17, 1982 to March 31, 1983 period 607 enrollments representing $69.46 million were received. During the April 1, 1983 to March 31, 1984 period an additional 1,957 enrollments were received representing $219.11 million in eligible loans. In April 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985 fiscal year 1,456 new enrollments were received representing $156.66 million in eligible loans. Rebates totalling $13.28 million were paid in this fiscal year. Rebates paid since the start of the program totalled $17.47 million.

Feeder Association Loan Guarantee Program

The Feeder Associations Loan Guarantee Act was passed in July, 1984. The purpose of the Act is to provide government guarantees to financial institutions who provide loans to feeder associations for the purchase of feeder cattle.

The program was introduced through press releases, brochures and advertising. Producer requests to Saskatchewan Agriculture staff resulted in twenty-four public information meetings. These were held throughout the province during the October to March period.

As of March 31, 1985 thirteen associations had been incorporated. One of these associations had received their funding and a government guarantee for thirty-seven members of 25 per cent of $925,000.

Horticultural Societies

"Horticultural Societies promote the enhancement of grounds and gardens through educational, events, competitions and by doing volunteer horticultural work in their communities."

Saskatchewan Agriculture supports horticultural activities at the local and provincial level. During this fiscal year, the department paid out $25,018 in grants to horticultural societies. An additional $1,765 grant was paid to the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association.

Thirty-six societies were active in 1984-85. The projects undertaken in addition to the regular horticultural shows included lectures, tours, demonstrations, competitions, community flower, shrub and tree planting and judge's school.

Growing conditions in Saskatchewan in 1984-85 were far from ideal and many gardens, flowers and fruits were destroyed by drought, hail and grasshoppers.

Fall horticultural shows and the sponsorship of educational events such as courses and workshops on horticultural husbandry continued to be the most popular activities of societies. Horticultural societies provide information on new developments in cultural practises in fruit, vegetable, flower, shrub and tree production. Several societies and their members provide instruction for horticultural classes sponsored by community colleges. Other societies provide information to the public by press, radio, television, special speakers at seminars, courses, workshops, demonstrations and planned tours. These educational activities are most significant in the dissemination of information on horticulture.

During 1984-85 the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association undertook a variety of projects and continued support of the Ornamentals Demonstration Plots at the Experimental Farm in Indian Head.

The 1984 Provincial Show was held in Yorkton in August attracting 1,500 entries and the Annual Convention was held in Nipawin. Several judge's schools were conducted during the Provincial Show in various subjects. The convention included the annual meeting and many lectures and demonstrations.

Irrigation Branch

"The major activity of the year was co-ordination of the most ambitious irrigation development program in Saskatchewan's history. The process included co-ordinating preliminary hydrology, agronomic and economic feasibility, soil and water analysis, engineering design services, and water supply approvals. Many disciplines and agencies were involved. This branch provided or arranged for on-farm services. Saskatchewan Agriculture provides a grant of $100 for each irrigated acre. The grant is payable over three years. The co-ordination of disciplines and federal and provincial agencies is aided by the computer-based irrigation information system. The responsibility for programs related to the administration of the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District No. 1 was transferred to the Saskatchewan Water Corporation in 1984."

I. Services to Individual Farmers

The service to potential irrigators was expanded to accompany the new irrigation development program. This branch provided information for potential irrigators to assess the feasibility of their project. The branch also undertook soil-water investigations to determine suitability and compatability for irrigation. The branch assisted in providing a preliminary hydrology report on each project. The computerized system provided comprehensive records of irrigation development projects. The system can give immediate responses to inquiries on the current standing of any project. The file identifies 14 major categories of development.

As of March 31, 1985, 739 applications were processed, representing potential development of 67,000 acres. While some projects were cancelled or placed on hold, 642 were proceeding through the phases of development and, more importantly, 87 were completed, representing 9,751 acres of which 72 projects or 7,342 acres were eligible for $671,600 in grants over three years. The amount of grant paid in the fiscal year was $412,340.

The branch contracted services with irrigators under the Irrigation Management Program. The objectives were to introduce irrigation management technologies to advance expertise in irrigation. The branch was committed to installing soil moisture measurement equipment and to inspect each site on a bi-monthly basis throughout the summer months. As a result of each call, a handwritten summary of observations and recommendations was provided to the farmer. The irrigating farmer agreed to provide production records as requested, to permit access to the field for educational purposes, and to accept responsibility for any damage to branch equipment installed on his land. The farmer agreed to obtain some basic equipment such as soil probes and rain gauges.

In 1984, 300 summaries were prepared which provided 1,000 recommendations to 81 farmers throughout the province.

II. Group and Public Services

The "Irrigation Newsletter" was the main publication of the branch. Four editions were distributed to 3,000 farmers. The "Irrigation Manual", a binder of branch approved publications, continues to be purchased by the public. The manual has a current distribution of 300.

Thirteen summer field days involving irrigation management sites attracted 280 farmers and agricultural advisors.

To complement the new irrigation development program, the branch hosted five upgrading seminars for the department staff.

The branch assisted in the co-ordination of an irrigation course at Kelsey Institute, Saskatoon. Branch staff were guest speakers at Kelsey, University of Saskatchewan, farm extension meetings and out-of-province conferences.

III. Other Research and Development

The branch contracted the Irrigated Alfalfa Variety Trial (Year Three) with the Saskatchewan Dehydrators Association at a cost of $5,441. Copies of preliminary reports on this study are available on request.

Technical assistance was also provided for research projects, funded by others, in the Outlook area.

- Agriculture Canada's irrigated canola/mustard versus dryland varietal trial;
- European Forage Trial of Saskatchewan Agriculture and K.W.S. Seeds; and
- Irrigation related On-Farm Demonstration projects.

On April 1, 1984, the branch assumed responsibility for the 1976 Water Supply Contract, between Saskatchewan Water Corporation and Saskatchewan Agriculture. The branch, under this contract, paid the Saskatchewan Water Corporation an operation and maintenance charge for irrigation water supply from the Saskatoon Southeast Water Supply (SSEWS) System. The charges paid in this year were a capital cost demand charge of $236,969.25 and an operating cost charge of $225,701.50 for a total charge of $462,670.75.

Professional staff from several departments of the Province of Saskatchewan were called to serve on a Task Force on Rural Development. This branch provided a member from Saskatchewan Agriculture. The Task Force convened from August 1984 to March 1985. The Task Force Report to the Minister of Rural Development is to be completed early in the 1985-86 fiscal year.

Projects that resulted in branch publications in the year included:

- Production Costs and Yields of Irrigation Crops, 1985.
- The Coarse Account Book.
- Irrigation of Cereal Crops.
- Irrigation Guide, 1984.

Lands Branch

"The Lands Branch administers provincial land designated for agricultural production. As of March 31, 1985 the branch administered 8,754,495 acres of land."

The Lands Branch sale program continued at 1983-84 levels in 1984-85. Tender sales of unallocated lands involving 30,392 acres resulted in sales of $7.4 million. Sales to lessees amounted to cash sales of $2.4 million (9,468 acres) and sales under time sale agreement of $4.8 million (23,002 acres).

On March 31, 1985, 4,128 cultivation leases covering 1,447,127 acres were in effect. There were also 7,438 grazing leases on 5,924,490 acres including 505,909 acres leased to P.F.R.A. for their pasture purposes. The Provincial Community Pasture Program utilized an additional 789,126 acres in 54 cattle and two sheep pastures. There were 1,066 hay leases in effect on 159,657 acres. The remaining land was held under sale agreement; miscellaneous leases, such as sand and gravel quarrying; or was unallocated. There were 238,131 acres of unallocated crown land. Land remains unallocated because of low productivity, inaccessibility, poor drainage, severe topography, stoniness or excessive development costs.

Lands Branch activity in the Rail Line Abandonment Program accelerated in 1984-85. Under this program, the Branch is responsible for finalizing disposition of abandoned rail right-of-ways after transfer of administration from the Federal government to the province. To date, 18 of the expected 35 abandoned rail subdivisions have been transferred to the province, Minister's Advisory Committees have been established in 17 of the 18 subdivision, and recommendations on dispositions of the land have been submitted by 12 of the Committees. These 18 subdivisions cross 897 quarters of land and include 5,607 acres in 366.3 miles of railbed.

I. Sales

The Crown land sale policy provided for the sale of provincial land held under lease to the leaseholder and the sale of unallocated lands by public tender if these had no reservations preventing sale.

Sales to lessees were at fair market value. Terms were cash or time sale agreement. Time sales were for a 15 year term with a 15 per cent down payment required. Interest charged was 10 per cent for the first 10 years with the Farm Credit Corporation rates in the tenth year applied for the last five years. Land sold by tender was on a cash basis and was limited to farmers controlling land assessed at less than $30,000. A total of 292 sales on 62,862 acres were completed in the 1984-85 fiscal year.

II. Lease Dispositions

Land which is unallocated and not eligible for sale may be leased under long term agreement. This includes lands which are classified as: critical wildlife habitat; adjacent to a lake or river; environmentally sensitive; required for higher or public use (e.g. gravel); fragile soils and containing archaeological sites. Assignments of grazing and hay leases to either family members or purchasers of the deeded portion of the farm continued if the leased land formed an integral part of the farm unit. However, policy was clarified to prevent the assignment of cultivation leases to non-family members.

III. Community Pasture Operations

Lands Branch operated 54 cattle pastures which carried 79,122 head of adult cattle plus 50,035 calves from 2,753 patrons. Some 37,444 cows were placed in department operated breeding fields and an estimated 12,000 cows were bred in patron fields. The department also operated two provincial community sheep pastures located at Mortlach and Tompkins. Thirty-three patrons pastured 3,510 ewes and 1,613 lambs. Approximately 21,114 acres of rejuvenation was underway, costing an estimated $482,270 which was contracted to farmers and private contractors. In addition, $435,995 was spent in 1984-85 on capital construction and land development for provincial pastures.

IV. Land Improvement Program

Lessees improved leased land through clearing and/or breaking if authorized by Lands Branch. Factors limiting development included wildlife habitat, soil type, topography, recreational value and importance for other uses. In prairie areas the lessee paid the development costs and will recover those costs by retaining crops. Where clearing is required, the lessee has the option of having the department pay the development costs, or pay for the development himself and retain crops to recover costs. In 1984-85 $1,081,940.27 was expended on land development on grazing and cultivation leases. Clearing was completed on 9,609 acres and 6,901 acres were broken. The development of 9,610 acres under the crop retention option was also authorized.

V. Lebret Training Farm

In 1984 most of the farm or about 3,240 acres was tender permitted. The yardsite area was not permitted. Custom operations were performed on another 160 acres.

VI. Revenues

Land administered by Lands Branch produces a revenue of approximately $30 million in 1984-85. Major sources of revenue were land sales at $13 million, lease rentals at $21 million and community pasture operations at $5 million.

Personnel and Training Branch

"The Personnel and Training Branch provides the department with staffing, classification, staff relations, training and development, and payroll services. It also provides policy direction and guidance for administration and management of personnel to both the department and its associated agencies."

I. Administration

The branch revised a number of forms and developed several procedural changes in its continuing efforts to improve personnel services.

II. Staffing

During the fiscal year 1984-85 the staffing unit co-ordinated 75 competitions for permanent positions, comprised of 34 professional, 16 technical and 25 clerical. In addition, the staffing unit assisted management in recruiting casual, temporary and labour service employees to meet program needs. In all, there were 560 staffing actions in 1984-85.

The department recruited four newly graduated agrologists into its training program. For the first few months of their employment they were assigned to work under a regional co-ordinator and were provided with a broad understanding of the functions and duties of the department's various branches. After the training period they were placed in vacant professional agrologist positions.

III. Classification

There were 58 requests for classification review in the permanent classified service.

The mandate of the Agrologist Committee was continued and changes in appointments were made to the committee.

IV. Staff Relations

The branch provided assistance to the Saskatchewan Pork Producers Marketing Board in preparing management proposals for negotiations with the Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union. In addition, the branch co-ordinated management proposals and worked with the Public Service Commission on the collective agreement that covers the department's employees.

V. Training and Development

Training and development of employees is a continuous program in the department.

1. Each year the Public Service Commission offers courses in special skills such as leadership, effective writing, and managing a small work unit. In 1984-85, 156 department employees participated in these courses. In addition, employees attended special seminars and courses of a technical nature directly related to their professional discipline.

2. Employees in the branch took an advanced course in the operation of work processors. The branch continued to instruct other employees in work processing.

3. Publication of the series "Personal Development Notes" was continued. These are short articles on various aspects of training and development. Approximately 550 copies of each article is distributed to staff in the department and its agencies.

4. In conjunction with the Public Service Commission, a pilot project on performance appraisals was continued.

VI. Payroll

The integrated payroll service functioned well. This service provided full pay benefits record keeping, pay benefits calculations and information services regarding staff entitlements.

Plant Industry

"The branch is responsible for programs regarding promotion, development, production and protection of field, forage, horticulture and honey crops; soil conservation; and the use, handling and distribution of pesticides."

Agricultural specialists work with producers, personnel of other branches, Agriculture Canada, universities, industry and other related agencies to provide programs to enhance crop production, crop protection and soil conservation in Saskatchewan. Branch specialists also develop and administer programs to further the safe and effective use of pesticides.

I. Crop Production Services

The Crop Production Newsletter resumed publication and is widely received by extension staff, agribusiness and private sector agrologists.

1. Cereal and Oilseed Crops

The cereal and oilseed specialist is responsible for interpreting and disseminating results of research and providing consultation and advisory services. The following programs were carried out by the cereal and oilseed specialist:

a) There was considerable demand for production information on winter wheat and HY 320. The demand for information was created because the winter wheat acreage increased from 300,000 to 1.5 million acres. However, up to 70 per cent of the winter wheat winterkilled in the brown and dark brown soil zones with about 30 per cent winterkill in the rest of the province. Also, the introduction of a new variety, HY 320 in a new class of wheat, "Canada Prairie Spring Wheat" was licenced in January, 1985 leading to an increased demand for information.

b) The publication "Varieties of Grain Crops for Saskatchewan" was revised. Of the 100,000 copies printed, 30,000 were distributed to the extension staff in early January, and 70,000 were distributed to farmers as an insert to the February issue of Farm Light and Power.

c) A pedigreed Seed Growers' Directory was prepared in co-operation with the Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association. About 75,000 copies were distributed as an insert to the February issue of Farm Light and Power and to extension staff.

d) The Provincial Stock Seed Committee processed 48 applications for probation and 26 applications for breeder seed.

e) Assistance was provided to five farmer organizations:
- Canola Council of Canada
- Flax Growers' Western Canada
- Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association
- Western Barley Growers' Association
- Western Canadian Wheat Growers' Association

2. Forage Crops

The forage crops specialist provides a consultant service in the area of forage agronomy to Extension Service, agribusiness and related organizations. The following programs were carried out by the forage crops specialist.

a) The first hay and silage show within Canadian Western Agribition was organized and received a favorable response from both exhibitors and the public. Agribition provides an excellent opportunity to provide information on forages to a target audience and to raise the profile of forage crops in Saskatchewan. Over 50 exhibitors from the three prairie provinces participated in the show.

b) The "Forage Crops Recommendations" bulletin was revised. Sixteen thousand copies of this publication were distributed through Extension Service and agribusiness.

c) The following seed was distributed to Saskatchewan seed growers on behalf of the Canadian Forage Seed Project for planting in 1985:

Crop Kind and Variety	Amount (kg)
Alfalfa - Algonquin	2,350
Angus	910
Beaver	1,010
Rambler	575
Alsike Clover - Aurora	75
Bird's-foot - Trefoil - Leo	270
Bromegrass - Carlton	100
Sweet Clover - Yukon	225
Timothy - Climax	265

d) The text was written for two new publications "Soil Improvement with Legumes" and "Silage, Haylage and High Moisture Grain."

e) The forage crops specialist assisted with activities of the following organizations:

- Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers' Association
- Canadian Alfalfa Seed Council
- SeCan Association
- Grain Show Committee of Canadian Western Agribition

3. Special Crops

The special crops agronomist provides technical information about non-board grain crops such as mustard, canaryseed, lentil, pea and sunflower. Much of the extension effort in 1983-84 was directed at new growers and potential commercial crops for Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan saw the largest acreage of special crops ever in 1984. This upward trend in special crop acres shows an increasing willingness to diversify crops and to invest the time and effort these crops require.

The special crops agronomist administers the Special Crops Demonstration Policy, which evaluates crops new to Saskatchewan. The two crops evaluated in 1984 were safflower and fibre flax. Also studied was the use of pheromone traps in sunflower crops as an innovative pest management tool.

A new extension approach was tried in March, 1985, when the special crops agronomist participated in Crop Prospects '85. Crop Prospects '85 was a market outlook conference beamed by satellite to nine communities in Saskatchewan. Over 400 producers attended the conference, which was sponsored by Saskatchewan Agriculture and the University of Saskatchewan.

Regular contributions were made to the Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Growers' Association Newsletter, now the Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Development Board Newsletter. Seven issues were published during the 84-85 season.

The special crops agronomist provided assistance to several committees, including service as secretary-treasurer to the Saskatchewan Pulse Crop Growers' Association, secretary-treasurer to the Saskatchewan Sunflower Committee, chairman of the Saskatchewan Corn Committee and advisor-director to the Western Canada Pulse Growers' Association.

4. Soils

The provincial soils specialist is responsible for providing technical information about soil conservation, soil fertility, special soils problems and land use to individuals and agencies both inside and outside the Department of Agriculture. This position was filled in July, 1984. The following programs were carried out by the soils specialist in co-operation with other agencies:

a) Publications - the general fertilization practices and phosphorus bulletins were revised and a new potassium bulletin was published. Over 70,000 various soils bulletins were distributed through government and industry channels.

b) Extension meetings - the soils specialist was guest speaker at a number of farm meetings organized by the extension service. Soil conservation, fertilizer application and soil testing were the topics most frequently addressed.

c) Special programs - the federal-provincial ERDA agreement was announced in 1984. Soils and especially soil conservation will receive considerable attention in this program.

Besides these programs, numerous inquiries from farmers, extension persons and public and private agencies were answered.

II. Crop Protection Services

1. Weed Control

The weed control specialist is responsible for providing technical information regarding weed control in Saskatchewan to Extension Service, farmers, agribusiness and other related industries.

a) The Weed Control Policy, which provides 50 per cent cost sharing of approved projects, was continued. The department's share of the program in 1984-85 was $125,186.02.

b) The weed control specialist co-ordinated revision of the "Chemical Weed Control in Cereal, Oilseed, Pulse and Forage Crops" publication. Thirty-five thousand copies of this publication were distributed through Extension Service and agribusiness.

c) The weed control specialist prepared the computerized "Saskatchewan Herbicide Useage Planner" which is available to Saskatchewan farmers and agribusiness through Grassroots.

d) More than 300 plan samples were received by the Crop Protection Laboratory for identification purposes.

2. Pest Control

a) Insect Surveys

A soil survey of the northeast and east-central regions of the province was carried out during May in co-operation with Agriculture Canada. A method of soil sampling for midge cocoons was developed and cocoon extraction techniques were refined. Results indicate a close correlation with wheat head surveys conducted during August, providing specialists with another tool for monitoring the spread and density of midge populations.

Although midge damage was not surveyed, it was estimated at roughly $20 - 30 million. Approximately 80,000 hectares were treated with insecticides for midge, and a similarly large outbreak is projected for 1985 if suitable conditions persist.

b) Vertebrate Control

The co-ordinating efforts and guidance provided by the new vertebrate specialist has injected new energy and enthusiasm into the rat control program. A new manual for rat control on the prairies has been drafted and will be published next year. A 16-mm rat control movie was completed and a study manual for pest control officer training was assembled. Preparations are underway to standardize the rodent control program in all aspects of control technology, record keeping and program development.

3. Pesticide Safety

The department encourages careful use of pest control products through the Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act and Regulations, and by distributing information about pesticide use and handling to the public, extension and resource personnel.

a) Compliance

A new computer software package was developed for the pesticide applicator permit system. The new enhanced program will allow direct and easy access to pesticide applicator records by specialists, resulting in considerable time savings. Further refinements were incorporated into the licensing system and efforts were made to ensure all commercial pesticide applicators in the province were entered onto the system.

b) Training and Information

The department continued to work with the Canadian Association of Pesticide Control Officials (CAPCO), contributing information about disposal procedures and education, training and licensing sub-committees.

Specialist also co-operated with the Saskatchewan Safety Council, Farm Division in the development of audio-visual presentations on pesticide safety. Plant Industry Branch also distributes several pesticide safety publications, and safety information is now printed in all pesticide recommendation publications. Insurance coverage for all pesticide applicators in the province has been investigated and group policies should be available during 1985.

4. Plant Pathology

Seven hundred and seventy-nine samples were received in the Crop Protection Laboratory for disease diagnosis. The points of origin provided information about disease development throughout the province.

Specialized technical support was provided through the Crop Protection Laboratory to the Dutch Elm disease surveys carried out by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and the City of Regina. No new case of the disease was detected in 1984.

Regular contributions were made to the department's "Crop Protection Newsletter." The annual publication on chemical seed treatments was revised.

III. Horticulture Section

The horticulture supervisor and specialist are responsible for compiling and interpreting research results and generating extension information for the commercial production of fruits, vegetables, ornamentals and greenhouse crops as well as home gardening.

The extension effort in 1984-85 was directed towards individual potential commercial enterprises through farm calls, interviews and discussions. Interest in the small fruit, vegetable and mushroom industries remain keen.

A horticulture phone service was installed for the summer months with 2,138 calls received by a summer assistant.

A Vegetable Crop Production Guide was purchased from Manitoba and distributed for use by commercial growers, and several information leaflets were published on "Lawn Tips" and "Fruit Gardening."

The farmstead landscaping planning service was continued. Several additional plantings were made for evaluation at the Indian Head Experimental Farm demonstration plots including several Ottawa roses and weigelas.

The first joint convention and trade show by most horticulture related growers' associations was held in 1984 under the name "SaskHort", which included turf growers, nurseries, vegetable growers and greenhouse growers' associations. Other meetings of note were Western Canadian Society for Horticulture and Prairie Potato Council.

IV. Apiary Section

In 1984, Saskatchewan beekeepers produced a record crop of 21 million pounds from the 105,000 colonies which were operated. In spite of the large crop, the net farm income remained approximately the same as 1983 since the bulk price of honey declined by approximately 25 per cent. This is the second year in a row in which prices have declined and the beekeepers are experiencing increasing difficulty in marketing their crop.

The wheat midge outbreak in the northeast portion of the province was of serious concern since tens of thousands of acres were infested and in need of spraying and the spraying occurred just before the major honey flow was expected. Pesticide damage to bee colonies was kept to a minimum by the use of timely media releases by the Apiary Section, appropriate application directions from the pest control specialists and the proper use of the insecticide by the farmers and applicators.

The record honey crop was produced by beekeepers in the north while commercial beekeepers in southern Saskatchewan were devastated by a severe drought. The drought affected honey production in the southern two-thirds of the agricultural area of Saskatchewan and many producers managed to yield only 10 to 25 pounds per hive. The department of agriculture responded to the situation and offered emergency drought assistance to commercial honey producers which enabled them to maintain their operations.

The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation responded favourably to a request from the Saskatchewan Beekeepers Association and initiated a crop insurance program for honey producers which will be available for the 1985 crop.

In July of 1984, the honeybee tracheal mite, *Acarapis woodi*, was discovered in Texas. Subsequent examination across the United States has revealed the presence of this mite in 10 other American states. In September, the provincial apiculturist in his capacity as president of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists, called a meeting of industry representatives in Winnipeg, Manitoba, which was attended by 42 delegates from across Canada and the United States. This meeting was called to formulate Canadian plans regarding imporation of queens and bees from the United States. What developed was a consensus that imports would be allowed upon certification that the apiaries had been sampled and certified to be apparently free of the honeybee tracheal mite. Subsequent meetings and discussion with U.S. authorities were held in Guadalajara, Mexico; Victoria, B.C. and Tampa, Florida before the certification process was finalized.

The provincial apiculturist was invited to speak at the first International Symposium on the Africanized Bee and Honey Bee Pests which was held in October in Guadalajara, Mexico. The conference was attended by over 450 delegates and the provincial apiculturist made presentations on the Canadian action plans regarding mite pests, his experiences with the Africanized bee in Tanzania and showed a film on the Varroa mite.

As a result of the mite outbreak in the United States the provincial apiculturist organized a sampling survey in Saskatchewan and across Canada to determine if the honeybee tracheal mite was also present in Canada. Approximately 200 samples in Saskatchewan and 1,400 samples across Canada, representing more than 100,000 colonies were analyzed and all found to be negative.

Wintering short courses were held in six centres across Saskatchewan in September to provide information on wintering honeybees. More than 200 beekeepers attended these meetings. The number of beehives being wintered in Saskatchewan increased from approximately 50 per cent to more than 65 per cent during the winter of 1984-85, due in part to the mite infestation in the U.S.

The apiculture specialist co-ordinated a study funded by the New Crop Development Fund through the offices of the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Association which monitored insect crop pests in alfalfa fields across northern Saskatchewan. The apiculture specialist was also involved in the organization of the Fourth Annual Interprovincial Seed School which was held in Regina and attended the Interstate Seed School in San Diego, California.

The Apiculture Section was involved in the certification of a shipment of 11 million leafcutter bees which were sent to the U.S.S.R. The chalkbrood survey in leafcutter bees was continued and the first case of chalkbrood infestation was found among the samples submitted for analysis.

Veterinary Branch

"The Veterinary Branch develops programs to control and eradicate animal diseases and to ensure a wholesome supply of meat and meat products."

The branch employs six veterinary specialists, a poultry specialist and ten technical staff. The control of animal diseases is accomplished by providing veterinary diagnostic laboratory services and ensuring veterinary service in the community at large.

I. Laboratory Services

The branch operates a diagnostic laboratory in Regina and provides a grant to Western College of Veterinary Medicine to provide a similar service for the nothern half of Saskatchewan.

Each of the laboratories provides some special tests to avoid duplication of services. The increasing demand for more sophisticated tests has made the purchase of expensive analytical equipment necessary. It is for this reason that diagnostic fees are assessed for all work done on specimens from companion animals. The number of submissions in 1984-85 dropped to just over 8,100 from 11,000 the previous year. The caseload at Western College of Veterinary Medicine remained approximately the same in 1984. The revenue received for diagnostic testing of companion animals was approximately $48,000 in 1984-85. It is estimated that 8,000 to 10,000 livestock producers are assisted in solving disease and management problems each year by the diagnostic laboratories.

Fifteen groups, such as 4-H, producers, and foreign visitors, were given tours of the laboratory during the year.

II. Field Services

There were once again 55 veterinary service districts operating in the province in 1984-85. The province has 300 R.m.s and 210 of these are participating in veterinary service districts. Animal owners in Saskatchewan are served by approximately 150 veterinary practitioners, plus about 20 clinicians at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. The grants to veterinary service district boards to support veterinary travel costs and veterinary hospital operating costs totalled $445,000 in 1984-85.

The swine herd health program had 240 swine producers enrolled in 1984-85. These producers received regular visits from their practicing veterinarians. Producers are encouraged to keep good records and attending veterinarians provide written reports with comments and recommendations after each visit. This program is assisted by the services of a branch veterinary specialist who provides back-up expertise to swine producers and veterinarians. A significant contribution to this program is the checking of snouts and lungs at the time of slaughter for the existence of chronic disease.

The dairy industry also benefited from the expertise of a veterinary dairy specialist. This individual encouraged regular checks of milking machines, nutrition and disease control. Frequent tests for mastitis were encouraged and average somatic cell counts were lower in Saskatchewan than any other province in Canada.

The branch poultry specialist made approximately 200 calls during the year to producers, hatcheries and marketing board premises. The testing of fancy flocks for pullorum was completed and a large number of inquiries regarding feeding, management and business opportunities in the poultry and fur bearing industry were handled.

There were 14 domestic abattoirs receiving meat inspection service in 1984-85. This inspection is carried out under contract by Agriculture Canada inspectors. The cost of this inspection in this fiscal year was $295,000. The abattoir owner pays 17 per cent of the inspection cost and this provided revenues of $55,000.

The two inspectors working for Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals processed and resolved 332 cases concerning inhumane treatment of animals. The 92 per cent increase in investigations in 1984-85 was due to severe drought, early winter and economic problems encountered by farmers. The provincial grant to provide this service in 1984-85 was $50,190.

The Veterinary Student Summer Employment Program provided a 3½ month summer work experience for 17 veterinary students. A department of agriculture grant of $35,000 paid for 50 per cent of the students' salary.

A veterinary poultry specialist and agrologist poultry specialist headquartered at the University of Saskatchewan provided disease, nutritional and management expertise to egg, broiler and turkey producers in the province.

This service was made possible by a $82,000 grant from Saskatchewan Agriculture, plus $16,000 from the three marketing boards.

The branch also administered a $34,000 veterinary fellowship fund which provided a stipend for post graduate training to two full time veterinary graduate students and two part-time graduate students. The funds for this program were provided by the department of Advanced Education and Manpower.

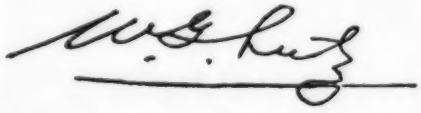
The branch has continued to take the necessary steps to collect veterinary student bursaries which must be repaid because graduates did not remain in the province. The final four bursaries are now being collected.

Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the statement of receipts and payments of the Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund for the year ended March 31, 1985. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, the statement of receipts and payments presents fairly the cash position of the trust fund at March 31, 1985 and its receipts and payments for the year then ended in accordance with the disclosed basis of accounting applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan
July 5, 1985

W.G. Lutz, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Year Ended March 31, 1985

	1985	1984
Receipts		
Collections under sections 3 and 4 of The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act and regulations	$543,748	$ 96,717
Less: Commissions on collections	21,224	8,889
	522,524	87,828
Bank and investment interest	12,848	10,377
Total receipts	535,372	98,205
Payments		
Grants (Schedule 1)	$288,595	$ 81,634
Advisory Committee expenses	2,767	1,255
Refund of deductions	11,471	65
Total payments	302,833	82,954
Excess of receipts over payments	232,539	15,251
Total cash and investments, beginning of year	101,693	86,442
Total cash and investments, end of year	$334,232	$101,693

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1985

1. Accounting Policy

(a) These financial statements are prepared on a cash basis, whereby revenues are recorded as collected and expenditures are charged to the accounts as payments are made. Accordingly, the financial position of the fund at March 31, 1985 does not include accounts receivable of $93,357 (1984 - $60,884), accrued interest receivable of $4,821 (1984 - $33), commissions payable of $3,734 (1984 - $2,435); and accounts payable of $1,103 (1984 - $ nil).

(b) The fund has not been charged with occupancy costs or administrative salaries and no provision for such costs is reflected in these statements. These costs are borne by the Department of Agriculture.

2. Legislative Authority

(a) Pursuant to the provisions of The Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Amendment Act, 1983 proclaimed into force August 29, 1983, the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Act Trust Fund was continued as the Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund and the assets and liabilities of the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Act Trust Fund were deemed to be the assets and liabilities of the fund.

(b) The fund is administered by an Advisory Committee established under the Act who authorize all expenditures from the fund subject to the approval of the Minister of Agriculture.

Schedule of Grants
Year Ended March 31, 1985

Schedule 1

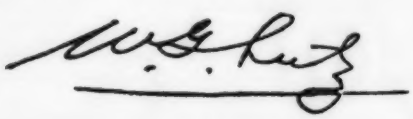
	1985	1984
Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association in respect of the Saskatchewan Beef Information Centre	$ -	$ 3,100
Canadian Cattlemen's Association in support of National Beef Information Centre	125,794	78,534
Canadian Cattlemen's Association in support of the National Advertising Campaign	90,000	-
Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization	50,000	-
Saskatchewan Artificial Breeders Association	21,901	-
Saskatchewan Cattle Feeders' Association	900	-
	$288,595	$ 81,634

Horned Cattle Fund

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the balance sheet of the Horned Cattle Fund as at March 31, 1985 and the statements of revenue, expenditure and operating surplus and changes in financial position for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the fund as at March 31, 1985 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the disclosed basis of accounting applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan
July 5, 1985

W.G. Lutz, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor

Balance Sheet

Statement 1

March 31, 1985

(with comparative figures at March 31, 1984)

	1985	1984
Assets		
Current:		
Cash	$ 61,589	$ 30,539
Marketable securities, at cost which approximates market	108,914	69,386
Accrued interest receivable	1,086	39
Inventory of cattle (Note 3)	399,060	361,679
	$570,649	$461,643
Liabilities and Operating Surplus		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 4,035	$ 3,310
Operating surplus - Statement 2	566,614	458,333
	$570,649	$461,643

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Operating Surplus

Statement 2

Year Ended March 31, 1985

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1985	1984
Revenue:		
Collections under Section 3 and 4 of The Horned Cattle Purchases Act	$216,216	$237,922
Less: Commission on collections	21,472	23,701
	$194,744	$214,221
Revenue from Pathlow Beef Project (Note 3)	261,923	176,996
Bank and investment interest	5,523	3,764
Total revenue	462,190	394,981
Expenditure:		
Grants (Schedule 1)	161,324	204,789
Pathlow Beef Research Project - operating costs	188,842	206,577
Department of Agriculture - The Horned Cattle Purchases Act Advisory Committee - meeting expenses	3,743	4,789
Total expenditure	353,909	416,155
Excess of revenue over expenditure (expenditure over revenue)	108,281	(21,174)
Operating surplus, beginning of year	458,333	479,507
Operating surplus, end of year	$566,614	$458,333

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Statement 3

Year Ended March 31, 1985

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1985	1984
Source of Funds:		
From Operations		
Excess of revenue over expenditure (expenditure over revenue)	$108,281	$(21,174)
Increase (decrease) in working capital	108,281	(21,174)
Working capital, beginning of year	458,333	479,507
Working capital, end of year	$566,614	$458,333
Represented By:		
Current Assets	$570,649	$461,643
Current Liabilities	4,035	3,310
	$566,614	$458,333

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1985

1. Accounting Policy

(a) The financial statements of the Horned Cattle Fund are prepared on a modified accrual basis of accounting where revenue and expenditures are accounted for on an accrual basis, except as follows:

Collections and grant payments under The Horned Cattle Purchases Act are recognized in the accounts on a cash basis. Accordingly, accounts receivable of $36,858 (1984 - $28,778) and commissions payable of $3,686 (1984 - $2,878) are not included in this statement.

(b) The Fund has not been charged with any occupancy costs or administrative salaries and no provision for such costs is reflected in these statements. These costs are borne by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) Cattle inventory is valued at approximate realizable value at the fiscal year end (Note 3).

2. Legislative Authority

Pursuant to the provisions of The Horned Cattle Purchases Amendment Act, 1983 proclaimed into force October 1, 1983, the Horned Cattle Trust Fund was continued as the Horned Cattle Fund and the assets and liabilities of the Horned Cattle Trust Fund are deemed to be the assets and liabilities of the Fund.

The purpose of this Fund is to promote research and development in the livestock industry.

3. Inventory of Cattle

In view of the difficulty which exists in assigning on a rational basis the costs of production to animals at various stages of maturity and since the correlation between costs and revenue is not nearly as close as in most businesses, the inventory of cattle held in connection with the Pathlow Beef Research Project has been valued at approximate realizable value at the fiscal year end. The corresponding changes in inventory from one year to the next have been described as Appreciation (decline) in value of opening herd.
Revenue from Pathlow Beef Project

	1985	1984
Cattle sales and natural increase in herd	$218,321	$199,044
Appreciation (decline) in value of opening herd	43,602	(22,048)
	$261,923	$176,996

Horned Cattle Fund **Schedule 1**

Schedule of Grants

Year Ended March 31, 1985

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1985	1984
Western College of Veterinary Medicine	$ 81,500	$ 65,300
Canadian Western Agribition Association	35,000	35,000
Biosystems Consulting Ltd. (Black Fly Project)	14,000	22,675
Saskatchewan Holstein-Freisen Association	12,000	12,000
Saskatchewan Livestock Association	-	14
University of Saskatchewan (Department of Animal and Poultry Science)	-	18,000
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities	7,000	14,300
Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization	-	19,500
University of Saskatchewan - College of Agriculture	-	18,000
Rosthern Agricultural Society	5,000	-
Twin H Cattle Co. Ltd.	5,000	-
Saskatchewan Angus Association	1,000	-
Ivan Grant	824	-
	$161,324	$204,789

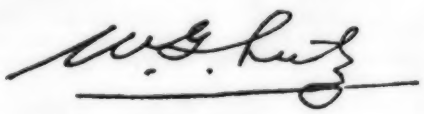
(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Farm Purchase Program Fund

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the statement of receipts and payments of the Farm Purchase Program Fund for the year ended March 31, 1985. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, the statement of receipts and payments presents fairly the cash position of the fund as at March 31, 1985 and its receipts and payments for the year then ended in accordance with the disclosed basis of accounting applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan
July 11, 1985

W.G. Lutz, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor.

Farm Purchase Program Fund **Statement 1**
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the Year Ended March 31, 1985

	1985	1984
Receipts		
Appropriation - Heritage Fund Agricultural Division (Note 1)	$8,183,000	$14,107,000
Lease payments	11,277,378	9,851,871
Penalties	738,790	449,754
Interest on loans	692,753	615,156
Investment	139,435	10,027
Advances from consolidated fund (Note 3)	-	820,000
Other	-	18,477
Total receipts	21,031,356	25,872,285
Payments		
Interest (Note 1)	20,116,560	20,833,379
Repayment of advances to Consolidated Fund (Note 3)	820,000	-
Advertising	70,628	37,351
Bank loan	-	5,000,000
Total payments	21,007,188	25,870,730
Excess of receipts over payments	24,168	1,555
Cash beginning of year	1,555	-
Cash, end of year	$ 25,723	$ 1,555

(See accompanying notes to the financial statement)

Farm Purchase Program Fund
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1985

1. Legislative Authority

The Farm Purchase Program Fund was established April 1, 1983, pursuant to The Farm Purchase Program Act, which was assented to December 17, 1982.

(a) Receipts
Pursuant to Section 8(2) if this Act, the following receipts are placed to the credit of the fund:

(i) lease payments on land formerly held by the Saskatchewan Land Bank Commission;
(ii) penalties on arrears of lease payments;
(iii) interest payments on loans for improvements made pursuant to section 22 of The Land Bank Act;
(iv) penalties on arrears of interest payments;
(v) interest earned on deposits or investments;
(vi) sums appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes of the fund;
(vii) advances from the Consolidated Fund.

(b) Payments
Pursuant to Section 8(3) of this Act payments were made out of the fund for interest costs on debt incurred by the former Saskatchewan Land Bank Commission. These payments were made to the Consolidated Fund.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) these financial statements are prepared on a cash basis, whereby revenues are recorded as received and expenditures are recorded when paid. Accordingly, the financial position of the fund at March 31, 1985, does not include the following items:

(i) amount due from Department of Agriculture - Lands Branch - $34,561 (1984 - $364,189)
(ii) accrued interest costs - $6,834,817 (1984 - $6,834,817);
(iii) advance due to the Consolidated Fund - nil (1984 - $820,000).

(b) The fund has not been charged with occupancy costs or administrative salaries and no provision for such costs is reflected in the statements. These costs are borne by the Department of Agriculture.

3. Advances

Pursuant to Section 8(4) of The Farm Purchase Program Act the fund receives advances from the Consolidated Fund as required for the purposes of the fund subject to prescribed terms and conditions. Following is a summary of advances received and repayments:

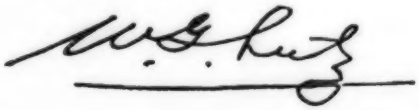
	1985	1984
Advances	$14,985,000	$59,390,000
Repayments	(15,805,000)	(58,570,000)
	$ (820,000)	$ 820,000

Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the balance sheet of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund as at March 31, 1985 and the statement of revenue, expenditure and reserve fund for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund as at March 31, 1985 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan
June 24, 1985.

W.G. Lutz, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor

Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund
Balance Sheet
As at March 31,1985

Statement 1

	1985	1984
Assets		
Cash	$ 3,635	$ 7,246
Short term investments, at cost (approximates market) (Schedule 1)	48,650	48,878
Accrued interest	480	304
	$52,765	$56,428
Reserve Fund		
Reserve fund	$52,765	$56,428

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund
Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Reserve Fund
Year ended March 31, 1985

Statement 2

	1985	1984
Revenue:		
General assessment	$ 4,598	$ 4,246
Investment interest	5,803	4,679
	10,401	8,925
Expenditure:		
Compensation payments	10,133	5,443
Investigation and hearing claims (Schedule 2)	3,931	4,201
	14,064	9,644
Excess of expenditure over revenue	(3,663)	(719)
Reserve Fund, beginning of year	56,428	57,147
Reserve Fund, end of year	$52,765	$56,428

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1985

1. Authority

The Agricultural Implements Compensation fund was established under the authority of The Agricultural Implements Act.

2. Administration Costs

In accordance with Section 52, of The Agricultural Implements Act, all sums required for the purposes of this Act are paid by the Department of Agriculture from moneys appropriated by the Legislature for such purposes and these costs are not reflected in these financial statements.

Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund
Schedule of Investment Securities
Year ended March 31, 1985

Schedule 1

Security	Balance April 1, 1984	Additions	Disposals	Balance March 31, 1985
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c McLeod, Young, Weir Ltd. Purchased Government of Canada Treasury Bills maturing June 1, 1984 @ 9.86%	48,878		48,878	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c McLeod, Young, Weir Ltd. Purchased a Traders Group Promissory Note maturing August 2, 1984 @ 11.30%		49,058	49,058	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c McLeod, Young, Weir Ltd. Purchased a Manitoba Pool Elevator Promissory Note maturing September 5, 1984 @ 12.55%		50,000	50,000	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Dominion Securities Pitfield. Purchased a Canadian Commercial Bank, bearer discount note maturing October 4, 1984 @ 12.20%		54,472	54,472	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Burns Fry Ltd. Purchased a Roynat Promissory Note Maturing November 29, 1984 @ 12.1/8%		53,996	53,996	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Bank of B.C. Purchased a Bank of B.C. Bankers Acceptance note maturing February 27, 1985 @ 10.95%		53,554	53,554	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Bank of B.C. Purchased a Bank of B.C. Mortgage Promissory Note maturing May 28, 1985 @11 1/4%		48,650		48,650
	$48,878	$309,730	$309,958	$48,650

Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund **Schedule 2**
Schedule of Investigation and Hearing Claims Expense
Year ended March 31, 1985

	1985	1984
Investigation	$1,207	$1,907
Board of Directors	2,510	2,264
Rental	214	30
Total Investigation and Hearing Claims Expense (to Statement 2)	$3,931	$4,201